

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application.

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 6, 2007.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 13-16, 18-24 and 26-30 are pending. Claim 6 is withdrawn.

Claims 20-24 and 26-30 are allowed. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 13-16, 18 and 19 are rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1-19 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farnworth (U.S. Patent No. 6,537,482, hereinafter “Farnworth”). The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 7-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnworth in view of Naka, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,727,583, hereinafter “Naka”), claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnworth in view of Iwabuchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,017, hereinafter “Iwabuchi”), claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnworth in view of Iwabuchi in further view of Naka and claims 10, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeichi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,531,026, hereinafter “Takeichi”) in view of Naka.

As noted above, claims 1-19 have been cancelled.

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's allowance of claims 20-24 and 26-30 is noted with appreciation.

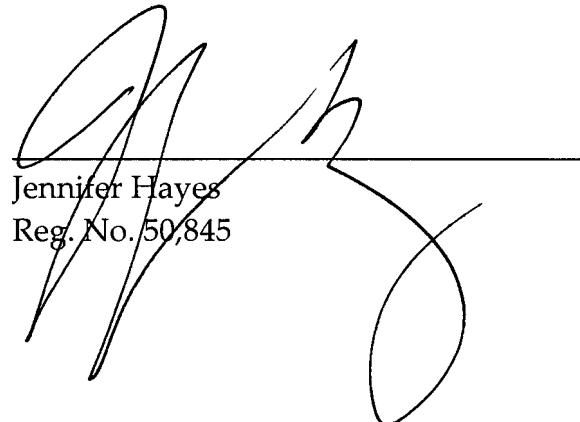
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

Date: June 5, 2007

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